

Olympia, Washington 98504

December 5, 2003

To: Interested Persons

From: John F. Peppert, HIV Prevention, Department of Health

Craig D. McLaughlin, Policy Manager, State Board of Health

Subject: HIV Rule Review - Stakeholder Meetings

In September 2003, the State Board of Health filed public notice of the intent to review certain HIV-related sections of chapters 246-100 and 246-101 of Washington Administrative Code (WAC).

This rule review is a part of a larger HIV Policy Review process initiated in August 2003 in response to reports and recommendations received during 2001-2003. The attachment—*Tackling HIV Policy Issues: Process and Step 2*—describes the larger process and provides additional information on the HIV Rule Review.

The anticipated scope of the rule review includes: counseling and testing; partner notification; and blood borne pathogens. Additionally, the review may clarify and shorten the rule, eliminating unnecessary, arbitrary, counterproductive, dated or ineffective provisions. Rules specific to the use of restrictive measures, or behaviors endangering others will not be reviewed at this time.

To permit participation from both the eastern and western parts of the state, representatives of the Department and the Board will hold a stakeholder meeting in Spokane and a stakeholder meeting in Tacoma to gain further public input prior to beginning to draft revisions to the WAC. Please see the Stakeholder Meeting Announcement for meeting purpose, dates, times and locations.

For those unable to attend one of the meetings, written comments received by January 31, 2004 will be considered. The Stakeholder Meeting Announcement includes directions for submitting comments.

Meeting locations will be barrier free. If you need special accommodations, please contact Harla Eichenberger by December 31, 2003 at 360-236-3424. Thank you.

Attachments

STAKEHOLDER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

<u>Meeting Purpose</u>: Gain community, public health and perspective on the assurances, concepts, concerns and system issues important to consider in any proposed changes to state rules that would be designed to:

- 1. Increase the proportion of HIV-infected persons who know their HIV status
- 2. Increase the proportion of persons exposed to HIV who are informed of that exposure
- 3. Address the prevention and control of blood borne infections other than HIV

Rules to be considered in this review include:

- WAC 246-100-206 through 209--Sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS counseling and testing standards
- WAC 246-100-010--Communicable disease definitions
- WAC 246-100-036--Responsibilities and duties -- Local health officers
- WAC 246-100-072--Rules for notification of partners at risk of HIV infection
- WAC 246-101-01--Notifiable conditions definitions
- WAC 246-100-505 Duties of the local health officer or the local health department
- WAC 246-100-520 and 635--Special conditions--HIV and AIDS

Other sections of chapters 246-100 and 246-101 WAC may also be reviewed as necessary. Chapters 246-100 and 246-101 WAC are available at:

http://www.leg.wa.gov/wac/index.cfm?fuseaction=chapterdigest&chapter=246-100 http://www.leg.wa.gov/wac/index.cfm?fuseaction=chapterdigest&chapter=246-101

Meeting locations will be barrier free. If you need special accommodations, please contact Harla Eichenberger by December 31, 2003 at 360-236-3424.

Meeting Dates, Times and Locations:

Date:January 16, 2004January 23, 2004Time:9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.Location:WestCoast Ridpath HotelLaQuinta Motor Inn

Gallery Room Ballroom

515 W. Sprague 1425 E. 27th Street Spokane, Washington Tacoma, Washington

Written Comments

Comments received by January 31, 2004 will be considered. Comments may be sent by regular mail, fax or email to:

HIV Rule Review, Post Office Box 47840, Olympia, Washington 98504-7840

fax: 360-236-3400, Attention: HIV Rule Review

email: john.peppert@doh.wa.gov

For email submissions, please include HIV Rule Review in the Subject line.